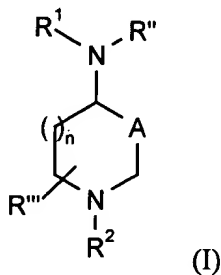


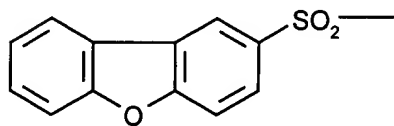
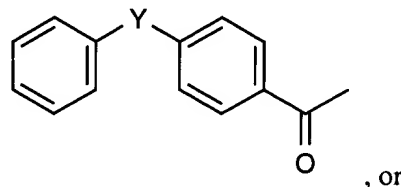
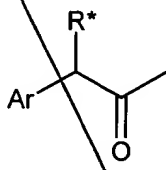
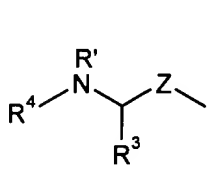
**In the claims:**

1. (Amended) A compound according to formula (I):

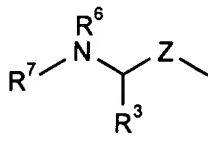


wherein:

A is C(O) or CH(OH);  
R<sup>1</sup> is



R<sup>2</sup> is H, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>3-6</sub>cycloalkyl-C<sub>0-6</sub>alkyl, Ar-C<sub>0-6</sub>alkyl, Het-C<sub>0-6</sub>alkyl, R<sup>5</sup>C(O)-, R<sup>5</sup>C(S)-, R<sup>5</sup>SO<sub>2</sub>-, R<sup>5</sup>OC(O)-, R<sup>5</sup>R'NC(O)-, R<sup>5</sup>R'NC(S)-, adamantyl-C(O)-, or



R'' is H, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, Ar-C<sub>0-6</sub>alkyl, or Het-C<sub>0-6</sub>alkyl;

R''' is H, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>3-6</sub>cycloalkyl-C<sub>0-6</sub>alkyl, Ar-C<sub>0-6</sub>alkyl, or Het-C<sub>0-6</sub>alkyl;

each R<sup>3</sup> independently is H, C<sub>2-6</sub>alkenyl, C<sub>2-6</sub>alkynyl, Het, Ar or C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl optionally substituted by OR', SR', NR'<sub>2</sub>, R'NC(O)OR<sup>5</sup>, CO<sub>2</sub>R', CO<sub>2</sub>NR'<sub>2</sub>, N(C=NH)NH<sub>2</sub>, Het or Ar;

R<sup>4</sup> is H, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>3-6</sub>cycloalkyl-C<sub>0-6</sub>alkyl, Ar-C<sub>0-6</sub>alkyl, Het-C<sub>0-6</sub>alkyl, R<sup>5</sup>C(O)-, R<sup>5</sup>C(S)-, R<sup>5</sup>SO<sub>2</sub>-, R<sup>5</sup>OC(O)-, R<sup>5</sup>R'NC(O)-, R<sup>5</sup>R'NC(S)-, R'HNCH(R')C(O)-, or R<sup>5</sup>OC(O)NR'CH(R')C(O)-;